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# FREE EAST TIMOR JAPAN COALITION

January 25, 1989

United Nations Human Rights Commission
UN Centre for Human Rights
Palais des Nations
CH-1200 Geneva, Switzerland

Dear Chairperson and Commission Members,

We wish to convey our hope that the forty-fifth HRC session will contribute to the alleviation of human rights violations by forthrightly identifying those violations and condemning them. We are particularly anxious to see the Commission give a full hearing to testimony on human rights violations in East Timor, a territory that has been in effect closed to the world for the past thirteen years.

The Free East Timor Japan Coalition was formed in 1988 by a number of citizens' groups concerned with the violation of human rights in East Timor. In November the Coalition invited two East Timorese refugees to Japan to speak from their own experiences on the situation in their homeland. One of them, Jose Guterres, told of his detention without trial and torture. From his personal experience with the International Red Cross in East Timor, he also testified that Red Cross delegates are only allowed limited access to selected prisons in East Timor. The other, Jose Adriano Gusmao, told of the death under suspicious circumstances of his infant son in an Indonesian-run hospital in Dili. Mr. Gusmao's wife was told by a member of the hospital staff that her baby would not have died if his father had not been a member of Fretilin, the East Timor resistance movement. Mr. Gusmao said that such mysterious deaths, particularly of children, in Indonesian-run hospitals are not uncommon. The prominence given to Depo Provera injections in the Indonesian birth control program in East Timor and involuntary sterilization of Timorese women, on the one hand, and the encouragement of immigration by outsiders, on the other, were also cited as practices aimed at reducing the Timorese population to a minority. Furthermore, it was pointed out that the imposition of the Indonesian language and culture, particularly through the school system, threatens the East Timorese with eventual cultural genocide.

The root of all the human rights violations in East Timor lies in the illegal Indonesian occupation. This occupation denies the East Timorese people the possibility of exercising their right of self-determination. In addition, the stationing of large numbers of Indonesian troops in East Timor--whose task is to control the population--makes every Timorese potentially suspect of "anti-Indonesian" activity and therefore vulnerable to beatings, arbitrary arrest, detention, torture, rape, "disappearance," and other human rights abuses. And as an Amnesty International representative stated before the United Nations Decolonization Committee in August, 1988, "the Indonesian Government, to Amnesty International's knowledge, has not prosecuted a single officer for the human rights abuses of the last 12 years." One of the recent cases that we are particularly concerned with is the killing of five girl students at an agricultural college in Natarbora by Indonesian soldiers in mid-August. (Another source says mid-September.) There is the possibility that the five girls were raped by the soldiers and two Indonesian teachers of the college. We ask your Commission to urge the Indonesian Government to examine those involved following the due legal process.

東チモールに自由を！全国協議会

善通寺東チモールと連帯する会　〒765 善通寺市文京町3丁目2-1 四国学院大学宗教部岡井洋一郎気付
東チモールの独立に連帯する会　〒606 京都市左京区吉田下阿達町9 きょうと・市民のネットワーク内
仙台東チモール会　〒980-01 仙台市一番町1丁目仙台中郵便局私書箱569号
東チモールの声を聞く会　〒700 岡山市下伊福1丁目2-28 松尾充芳方
東京東チモール協会　〒180 武蔵野市中町1丁目2-9-302
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In spite of the Indonesian Government's announcement that, after nearly thirteen years of integration, it would "open up" East Timor as of January 1, 1989, we seriously doubt that this in itself will result in any substantial improvement in the human rights situation in the territory. Only when that government is challenged to exercise its openness by cooperating in a thorough and impartial investigation of allegations of human rights abuses in the territory will meaningful pressure be brought to bear to improve its treatment of the occupied population.

With sincere good wishes that your meetings will in some measure promote the greater realization of human rights guaranteed under the United Nations charter, we are,

Masamichi Kijima (Tokyo group) Masamichi Kijima

Naoko Takahashi (Sapporo group) Naoko Takahashi

Masato Hagura (Sendai group) Masato Hagura

Takahiro Tsutsumoto (Kure YWCA group) Takahiro Tsutsumoto

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Mikio Monju (Osaka group) Monju Mikio

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